nited States Department of Agriculture
atural Resources Conservation Service
Plant Materials Center
Bismarck, North Dakota

BISMARCK Ecotype Buffalograss

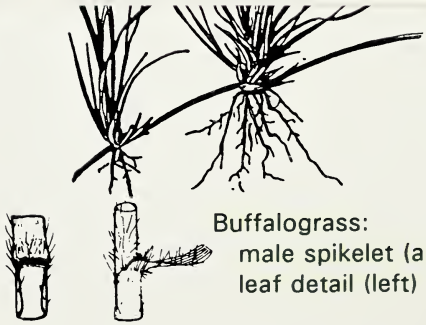
Announcing the release of

BISMARCK Ecotype

Buffalograss

Buchloe dactyloides

A buffalograss adapted to the Northern Great Plains

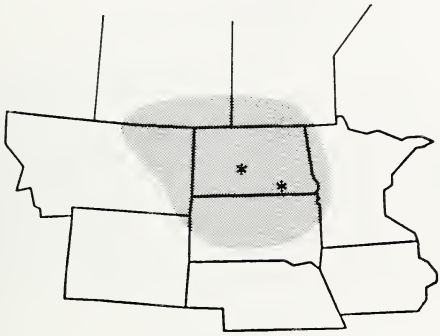


Buffalograss:
male spikelet (above)
leaf detail (left)

Plant Description

- Native warm-season sod-former
- Spreads by stolons
- Male spikelet averages 5" high
- Blue-green leaves average 4" high

Origin* and Projected Area of Adaptation

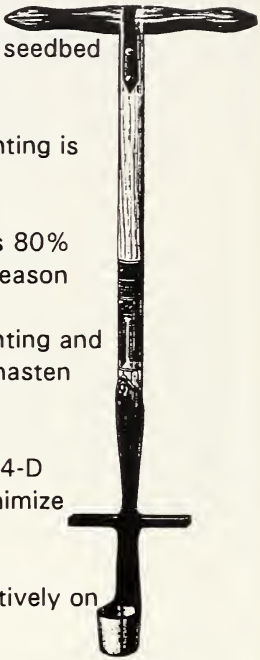


Bismarck Ecotype Features

- Originates from central North Dakota
- Low water use
- Adapted to USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 3
- All male population - no seed
- Vegetatively propagated
- Vigorous stolons
- Prefers clayey and silty sites
- Not recommended on sandy sites

Establishment

- Establishes readily from plugs
- Plugs should be at least 2 1/2 inches deep
- Place plugs in prepared seedbed May 1-June 15
- Late summer or fall planting is not recommended
- 1-foot spacing averages 80% cover after 1 growing season
- Watering after transplanting and during dry periods will hasten establishment
- Periodic mowing and 2,4-D application will help minimize weed competition
- Stolons spread most actively on bare ground



- Stolons will not root through heavy mulch layers
- Stolons may grow 12 inches the first year on a good site
- Other seeded grasses may provide too much competition and shade out the buffalograss
- Blue grama and buffalograss have complementary vegetative characteristics and perform well as a mixture
- Buffalograss performs best in open sunlight

- Needs little or
- Glyphosate applied in early spring (buffalograss must be completely dormant) controls cool-season grasses and some broadleaf weeds
- Irrigation during dry cycles will help extend "green" period

Availability of Plants

Clonal material (Generation 1) of Bismarck ecotype buffalograss is available for certified increase from the USDA, NRCS Plant Materials Center, 3308 University Drive, Bismarck, North Dakota 58504-7564. Limited quantities of vegetative material are currently available from commercial vendors.

Origin

Bismarck ecotype is a composite of two accessions of buffalograss collected from central North Dakota. One accession originated on a very shallow range site in western Dickey County in 1985. The second accession was collected in 1986 on a clayey range site in Morton County. The precipitation at these two sites varies between 16 and 20 inches. The temperatures during the year may climb above 100^0 F and plunge to -40^0 F in winter. The growing season is approximately 130-140 days.

Release Agencies

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

Natural distribution of buffalograss

Natural distribution map and plant line drawings reproduced from *North American Range Plants*, third edition, by J. Stubbendieck, Stephan L. Hatch, and Kathie J. Hirsch by permission of the University of Nebraska Press.

May 1997